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LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 19 June 1991 from Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, in reply to the letter from Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, contained in document S/22701 dated 13 June 1991.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 19 June 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I read with great regret the letter from Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany addressed to you on 13 June 1991 concerning the situation in the south of Iraq.

What elicits surprise is the talk of the existence of acts of oppression against the population of the south of Iraq, at a time when events indicate the opposite of what is alleged in the letter, which is aimed only at intervention in an internal affair of a State Member of the United Nations, without there being any impartial evidence to support it.

Allow me to point out that Mr. Brent Bernander, Coordinator of the Executive Delegate of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated at Geneva on 13 June 1991 that the international Organization would not send a mission of inspection to the south of Iraq and that it had not observed any military preparations against the population. Moreover, the Iraqi Ministry of Information organized a field visit to the south of Iraq for foreign news agencies on 13 June 1991, so that they could find out the truth of the matter, and the German television team participated.

On this occasion, permit me to affirm that my Government is making every effort to facilitate the work of United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with the provision of humanitarian aid and relief to Iraq.

The reports referred to in the letter of Mr. Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, are totally incorrect. Their sole aim is to derogate from the sovereignty, independence and freedom of Iraq in the administration of its internal affairs. As for the motives behind it, they are, by any interpretation, strange and have an unscrupulous thrust focused on extortion and an attempt at ingratiation with the regime in Iran so as to obtain commercial deals. On this occasion, we express our regret at this level to which international relations have come.

It would be more fitting for Mr. Genscher to seek verification of these reports from the Iraqi Government and through cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations.